

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 02270 211116Z

43

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01

H-01 PM-03 DODE-00 /036 W

----- 126757

R 210848Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0785

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2270

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: STATE 031559

1. PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON EDUARDO ROMUALDEZ IS CURRENTLY IN MANILA, OSTENSIBLY TO VOTE IN FEBRUARY 27 REFERENDUM. HOWEVER, HE IS ALSO HERE TO REPORT PROBLEMS HE SEES DEVELOPING IN U.S. CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO PHILIPPINES, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS HUMAN RIGHTS. IN BRIEF CONVERSTION AT ROMULO'S DINNER FOR VISITING KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER, HE TOLD ME OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF SENATE AND HOUSE, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO POLITICAL PRISONERS.

2. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR INFORMS ME THAR ROMUALDEZ HAS SEEN MARCOS ON THIS SUBJECT BUT "GOT NOWHERE." HE SAYS THAT MARCOS, IN MIDST OF REFERENDUM ORATORY, IS IN A MOOD TO JUSTIFY HIS DETENTION OF VARIOUS POLITICAL PERSONALITIES AND RESENTS BEING "THREATENED" BY CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. WE HAVE, INCIDENTIALLY, BRIEFED MELCHOR ON THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL, AND FEEL CONFIDENT ITS ESSENCE HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO MARCOS.

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3. COMMENT: FIRST BLUSH MARCOS REACTION TO ROMUALDEZ

REPORT IS NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY CONCLUSIVE. AFTER
REFERENDUM IS OVER, HE MAY BE PREPARED MAKE SOME MOVES TO
MOLLIFY POLITICAL PRISONER PROBLEM, IF HE CAN FIND A WAY
TO DO IT WITHOUT APPEARING TO BE UNDER EXTERNAL PRESSURE.
HIS MAIN PROBLEM IS INTRACTABILITY OF LOPEZ/OSMENA/AQUINO
GROUP WHO KNOW THAT THEY CAN EXACERBATE EMBARRASSMENT
FOR MARCOS IF THEY INSIST ON STAYING UNDER ARREST AT
LEAST THROUGH SENATOR CRANSTON'S HEARINGS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
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Disposition Event:
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